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I want to review this carefully before it goes out.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 13, 1958

Copy to ORR for action 1/14 1700

Draft will be to Cutler this afternoon. PB

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert Amory
Central Intelligence Agency

Will you please put some figures together for me, in order to make a point to the President, as to the relative production of steel in the USSR and the US? I assume that CIA has the basic information readily available.

What it is desired to show is not a comparison of rate of increase in terms of the percentage of each. That is, if the USSR went over a period of years from 20 to 60, there was a percentage increase of 300%. If in the same period, the US went from 80 to 120, the percentage increase was only 50%. Yet the US at the end of the period had 120 to put into defense and industry, whereas the USSR had only 60. The preponderance of available steel rested still with the US. It is the amount of available steel that it is desired to show. No one doubts the Russian growth from a relatively small base or that the US has continued to increase from a relatively high base.

Can you give a table that would show over a period, divided into 3-year intervals or other convenient intervals, or yearly, the gross steel tonnage production of the US and the USSR for the last considerable period of time available - say since WW I. This would be very interesting to see if not too much work.

Robert Cutler
Special Assistant
to the President

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